



Advice to members on ‘abortion reversal’

Claims that medical abortion can be ‘reversed’ by a dose of progesterone after a woman has taken the first medical abortion medication are not based on reputable scientific evidence. Women should seek reliable information from health-professionals to inform their pregnancy choices so that decisions made are evidenced-based.ⁱ

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP) upholds views by other medical Colleges’ that the promotion of the term ‘abortion reversal is ‘unproven and unethical’ based on the strength of evidence. Therefore, we do not support prescribing progesterone to stop a medication abortionⁱⁱ. There are no reputable national or international clinical guidelines that recommend the use of progesterone to reverse the effect of mifepristone, and no evidence that it increases the likelihood of continuing pregnancy, compared to expectant management alone.^{iii iv v vi}

- The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RANZCOG), the leading body for obstetrics, gynaecology, and women’s health in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand,
- The joint statement by The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH), the Royal College of Midwives (RCM), the British Society of Abortion Care Providers (BSACP).
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Together we do not support the use of progesterone to reverse medical abortion, or any claims that an abortion can be reversed with this practice.

References

ⁱ The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Statement. No reputable evidence for ‘abortion reversal’. Updated 18.4.2024. Accessed online 22.5.2024. <https://ranzcog.edu.au/news/abortion-reversal-statement/>

ⁱⁱ The American College of Obstetrics and Gynaecologists. Practice Bulletin. No.225; October 2020. Accessed online 23.5.24. [Medication Abortion Up to 70 Days of Gestation | ACOG](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ Hal C. Lawrence, M.D., “The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Supports Access to Women’s Health Care,” *Obstetrics & Gynecology* vol. 125 1282, 1283 (Jun. 2015) available at http://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/Fulltext/2015/06000/The_American_College_of_Obstetricians_and.2.aspx.

^{iv} The American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Facts are important: Medication Abortion “Reversal” is not supported by science. Accessed online: 22.5.2024. [Medication Abortion "Reversal" Is Not Supported by Science | ACOG](#)

^v The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare, the Royal College of Midwives, the British Society of Abortion Care Providers. Joint Statement on ‘Abortion reversal’. Accessed online 23.5.2024. [rcog-fsrh-abortion-reversal-position-statement.pdf](#).